

REMARKS

In the present Final Rejection, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 asserting that they are anticipated by Herkel et al '814. The Examiner contends that Herkel discloses a control circuit in which means are provided for repeatedly automatically interrogating a lock sensor and for periodically testing the locking sensors by observing the signals they produce during opening and closing of the shaft doors in normal elevator operation or during opening and closing of the shaft doors in association with a cage door operation signal sent by the control circuit to a story whose doors have not been opened within a defined period of time. It is respectfully submitted that Herkel et al '814 does not disclose a control system having such features, and particularly does not teach or suggest a system in which periodic signals are sent to operate elevator doors on a story in which normal operation of the doors has not occurred over a particular time interval. In association therewith, Applicants have amended claim 1 to further emphasize that feature of the present invention.

While Herkel et al '814 discloses the periodic communication between a controller (microprocessor 11) and nodes for purposes of conducting hardware checks, nowhere does the reference teach or suggest that, as part of the testing routine, door opening/closing signals are sent to nodes (or stories) to actually operate the doors, such that the signals generated during door opening/closing as a result of the signal sent, can be monitored and forwarded to the controller. At column 2, lines 8-10 Herkel et al merely states that the nodes are periodically polled. At column 4, lines 51-60 it further recites that communication between the microprocessor and bus nodes are scheduled on a periodic basis, and the messages sent include status information from hardware checks. No where does the disclosure state that the communications include the affirmative generation of operating signals and the system monitors the results of car door operations which are performed as a result of the operating signals. Rather, the disclosure indicates that the monitoring is totally passive, and that only the status of the hardware is measured.

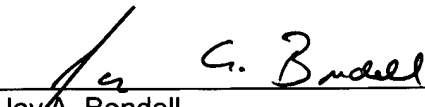
The present invention provides another level of testing beyond mere passive interrogation and monitoring, by affirmatively generating control signals which command the doors at a particular story to be operated in a manner akin to normal operation, and monitoring and evaluating the door signals generated during such operation. Such stimulated operation provides for a higher level of reliability of the system than solely

passive monitoring as provided for by Herkel et al '814 and is neither taught nor suggested by the reference.

Withdrawal of the rejection and passage to allowance is solicited.

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